

## Iowa USDA Foods Advisory Council Meeting

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The Iowa USDA Foods Advisory Council met at DBC Brokerage in Ankeny on **Wednesday, May 12, 2010**. Council members in attendance were: Jane Heikenen, Donna Becker, Nancy Hogstad, Marie Miller, Diana Weber, Marge Carson, Stephanie Dross, Allison Ketter, and ISU Dietetic Student, Hannah Swanson. Those not in attendance were Curtis DeWulf, Donna Sevenich, Bernard Gathers, and Judi Olson.

The meeting started at 10:10 with Jane reviewing the agenda and Diana Weber reading the January 22, 2010 board minutes. Marge Carson approved the minutes as read.

### *Business Items:*

1. Nutritional integrity of current USDA Foods products, specifically the processed foods was discussed. We also suggested that more frozen vegetables be available.
2. An article should go in the LunchLine on "How to Order Commodities". Jane will follow up on writing an article. Need to include balancing processed USDA Foods with unprocessed items along with information about determining actual cost to district when including shipping and handling.
3. The list of new items suggested by brokers for SY 2011-2012 was discussed.
  - Advance: Interested in Unbreaded Turkey Burger, Turkey Crumbles, and Diced Turkey.
  - MCI Foods/Los Cabos: Bean & Cheddar Cheese Burrito is a new processed item for 2010-2011; council is interested in looking at Chicken & Bean Burrito.
  - Asian Food Solutions: interested in Spicy Chicken.
  - Sun Wise Foods: interested in WW Sunflower Butter & Grape Jelly Sandwich. Possibly consider as NOI option.
  - High Liner Foods, Fishery Products International: Council did not think schools in Iowa were interested in fish. Would consider as NOI option if company could get enough orders from schools for a full truck.
  - Red Gold: has an enhanced spaghetti sauce that would meet HKA. Council will consider rebidding spaghetti sauce before five year schedule.
  - ConAgra: not interested in pasta due to competition with USDA Foods current offerings. Will be bidding some similar items as listed below.
  - Pierre: PB&J Uncrustables bring in 2012-13 when it's time for rebid. Smokey grill bites-maybe chicken because pork was bid last year. Bonus pears-recommend having available in 6/10 only.
  - JTM-Council not interested in adding as NOI at this time.
  - Rembrandt Foods: Not on National Processors List. Council recommends all company's need to be on National Processors List to be considered. Encourage all Iowa Company's to get approved for list.
  - Recommendation was made to look into the possibility of Ultragrain flour as USDA Foods.

### *Items up for bid for SY 1011-2012*

1. Applesauce cups: Yes, but look into unsweetened applesauce and other flavors such as strawberry.
2. Cold Cut Combo: No, sodium too high. Need a different option of sandwich with better nutritional integrity that meets the HKA.

3. Sunny Fresh: Yes, review egg products.
4. Citrus Systems/OJ: Yes, single serve only products & 100% juice only.
5. French toast: Yes, sticks and glazed WG-bulk only not individually wrapped.
6. Popcorn chicken: Yes
7. Rich's Products: Yes, WW Pizzatas, pizza dippers, and mozzarella sticks. These products are also available NOI.

#### *Other Items*

1. Jane informed us of a USDA Foods Pilot Project with prepackaged baby carrots and cut up apples. We are interested in being included in pilot.
2. Jane recognized Marge Carson, Stephanie Dross, and Curtis DeWulf with a certificate for all the years they have been on the USDA Foods Advisory Board.
3. Expense forms were filled out and turned in.
4. Discussion followed about the USDA Foods booth at this summer's SNAI food show in Ames. Donna Becker and Nancy Hogstad will develop a check off sheet for conference attendees as they visit food booths that feature USDA Foods items. A drawing will take place from all completed check off sheets and prizes will be given. Jane will send out a booth work schedule for all USDA Foods advisory members.
5. Discussion on USDA Foods ordering especially the timing of having to order for the second order before receiving the first order. By the time a school has received a new item and is able to assess student acceptance, the second order has already been placed. We asked Gary Bornmueller from DBC Brokerage about possibly bringing back a USDA Foods Tasting Meeting. This was one way that more districts could taste product before having to fill out their USDA Foods order. Another way to inform districts about new processed items was for Jane to send the info in an early USDA Foods mailing. Also send the information to Norma with SNAI, and possibly send out an eblast.
6. Discussion about pros and cons of Keck delivery of USDA Foods.
7. Council would like meetings in all regions of the state covering "How to order commodities", "NOI", "Processing", etc.
8. Additional topics: Jane updated us on ACDA-asked why more school districts didn't belong. The reason being that membership is very expensive and people are having a hard time leaving their districts.
9. DOD program needs to be explained to more districts so that more fresh fruits and vegetables can be utilized in the NSLP. Jane is asking for more DOD entitlement as current districts are requesting more and additional districts want to participate in SY 2010-2011.

#### *Meeting dates for SY 2010-2011*

- Fall date, October 1, 2010: Jane will ask Hockenberry Newburgh if we can use their building as we try to rotate our meeting locations.
- January bid tasting: Will ask the Des Moines Central Nutrition Center if they will host meeting again.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 by Allison Ketter and seconded by Donna Becker.

Submitted by:

*Diana Weber, Recorder*